

The South Danvers Observer

"The Peabody Effect"

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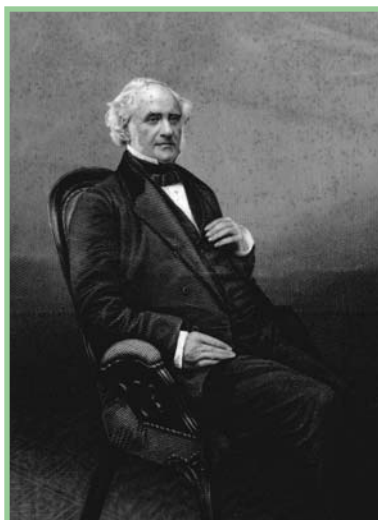
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—While George Peabody wasn't the first person from South Danvers (now Peabody) to extend his influence to the world at large, the size and extent of his donations certainly awards him a place of prominence in our city's history.

Without George Peabody, after all, Peabody wouldn't be Peabody.

Of course, every community can lay claim to famous and, at times, infamous citizens. It is noteworthy to mention that many of George Peabody's cousins followed in his footsteps by exerting a positive influence on the world. Among these relatives were Salem ship-owner, Joseph Peabody; banker, George Foster Peabody; the minister, William Bourne Oliver Peabody; early Transcendentalist, author and teacher, Elizabeth Peabody; educator and author Mary Peabody Mann; artist Sophia Peabody Hawthorne; poet



George Peabody, 1795-1869
c. 1860

Josephine Preston Peabody and Massachusetts Governor Endicott Peabody.

However, it isn't only those born into the Peabody family who went on to exert significant influence in the world. Many of those native to the city of Peabody also followed in George Peabody's footsteps.

The exhibit, *The Peabody Effect*, explores twenty Peabody natives who left their home and went on to create some change within our country. Among these men and women are artists, publishers, politicians, musicians, soldiers and merchants.

There are more stories than can be presented in the exhibit. Not every one effected great change. Many simply worked hard and did the best they could in a new state or in a new venture. They, too, contributed to *The Peabody Effect*.

Here are some of their stories.

John Atkinson Leighton, 1861-1956

—John Atkinson Leighton was born in South Danvers (now Peabody) on October 4, 1861, the son of John A. and Harriet E. Leighton. John Sr. worked as a shoemaker in town.

John Atkinson followed in his father's footsteps, working as a morocco dresser, but his true love was baseball. He showed a good deal of talent as a lefthander and in 1890, John's dream came true. He was drafted to play Major League Baseball with the Syracuse Stars of the American Association. He



John A. Leighton,
c. 1890

played the centerfield position with the Stars. He also worked as a minor league manager for several years in Lynn where he lived with his wife, Lillian.

For many years after his early career, he was often listed as a baseball player in the city of Lynn's census.

John Atkinson Leighton died in Lynn on October 31, 1956. He is buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Marcus Percival Bennett, 1854-1925

—Marcus Percival Bennett was born in South Danvers (now Peabody) on July 22, 1854, the son of James and Sarah (Heselden) Bennett. After attending the town's elementary schools, his parents sent him to Boston's Chauncy Hall School, located on the site of the present day Macy's in Downtown Crossing. From there, he went onto Harvard, graduating in 1876.

Desiring to enter the practice of law, Marcus spoke with Horace Greeley who advised him that California was the place to go. Marcus settled in Placerville, California to begin his study of the law. In 1878, he was admitted by the State of California into the bar.

In 1881, Marcus married Mary

Anderson, the daughter of a former sheriff of Eldorado County. Marcus and Mary had 8 children—Helen, b. 1881, Juliet, b. 1883, Edith, b. 1884, Mabel, b. 1886, Georgia, b. 1887, Marie, b. 1888, Gladys, 1891 and Marcus Jr., b. 1900.

In 1886, Marcus P. Bennett was elected district attorney of Eldorado County and in 1891, he was elected a judge of the superior court.

Sadly, though, tragedy struck in 1904. Their only son, Marcus, who was in the care of the nanny, fell down the stairs and broke his neck. The distraught nanny then hung herself. This traumatic loss seems to be the reason Marcus stepped down as judge and returned to private practice. He continued to work as a lawyer until his death on January 14, 1925.



Chauncy Hall School
where Marcus P. Bennett
attended school

Below

Marcus P. and Mary (Anderson)
Bennett's Home in Placerville, CA

Daniel Webster King, 1833-1918

—Daniel Webster King was born March 1, 1833, the second son of Daniel Putnam and Sarah (Page) King. Daniel Putnam King was elected to Congress in 1843 and served until his death in 1850.

Daniel Webster King attended the town's schools and then was sent to Gates Academy in Marlborough, Massachusetts until his graduation. In 1861, he served one year as a Massachusetts State Representative. The next year, he settled in Boston, forming the D. Webster King & Co. Glue Manufacture. A few years later, he merged with several partners to create the American Glue Company.

He married first Mary Harwood of Salem, who died in 1859. D. Webster married second Jane W. Purinton in 1866. They had five children, Tarrant Putnam, Bessie, Caroline, Anne and Grace.

In 1902, he retired from business to focus on his real estate concerns.

D. Webster King died in Annisquam, a part of Gloucester on October 21, 1918.



D. WEBSTER KING & CO.

Successors to Upton & Co.
Manufacturers to All Grades of

GLUE.

Dealers In Glue Stock, Sand and Emery
Papers, Smyrna Mills Emery & Neats-
Foot Oil, &

No. 1 Kilby St., — Boston
D. Webster King, Thomas L. Putnam.

Boston Advertisement for D. Webster King & Co.
1869

James Edward Mahoney, 1859-1926

—James Edward Mahoney was born in South Danvers (now Peabody) on December 15, 1859, the son of William and Asanora Mahoney, recent immigrants from Ireland. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1881.

His career seemed unremarkable until the Spanish American War. In 1898, like so many other U.S. Marines, First Lieutenant James E. Mahoney was dispatched to Cuba with the recently formed 1st Marine Battalion, which was a combined force, consisting of both infantry and artillery. The 1st Marine Battalion was sent to Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Their job was to keep the bay free of any Spanish attacks to allow other Navy vessels to be re-supplied. Just after their June 10, 1898 arrival, they

were attacked. The assault continued for the next three days, after which battalion went on the offensive and drove the Spanish forces out of the bay's western shore.

During these battles, Mahoney distinguished himself by his bravery and clear-headedness. He was awarded the Brevet Medal for "*for distinguished conduct and public service in the presence of the enemy.*"

In 1904, he was promoted to Captain and eventually reached the rank of Colonel. He later served in Panama and Vera Cruz, Mexico. Before retiring in 1919, he was given the temporary rank of Brigadier General.

James E. Mahoney died June 9, 1926. He is buried in Arlington, Virginia.



Colonel James E. Mahoney
c. 1919



Officers of the 1st Marine Battalion
First Lieutenant James E. Mahoney is seated at the far left

Last But Not Least

Orwin Bradford Griffin, 1893-1965

—Orwin Bradford Griffin was born in Peabody on May 29, 1893, the son of George A. and Julia B. (Bradford) Griffin. George A. Griffin worked as a bookkeeper and the family lived in their home on Washington Place.

Orwin attended the local schools and passed the entrance examination to attend Peabody High School and elected the Classical Course of study. In those days, graduation from our high school guaranteed acceptance at Boston University. Orwin was one of 47 graduating students and one of the 23 Peabody Scholars for the year of 1911. He accepted the admission to BU, majoring in Economics and Latin. To help support himself during his college years, he taught night school for the Peabody High School.

Upon completing his Bachelor's Degree, Orwin accepted a teaching position in Portsmouth, NH where

he taught Latin, French, English and Commerce. The following year, he decided to continue his education and was accepted as a Jacob Sleeper Fellow at BU for his Master's Degree in the History of Education. After completing this degree, he taught high school English in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1928, he finished his doctorate degree at Columbia University. His dissertation was entitled, The evolution of the Connecticut state school system: with special reference to the emergence of the high school. During his studies he also published many papers on education. In 1929, he was elected the superintendent of schools in Litchfield, Connecticut.

On June 28, 1921, he married Olga Lillian Swenson, a recent graduate of law school. She went on to become a Probate Court Judge. They had two children, Orwin Bradford Jr. and Laura Griffin.

Orwin Bradford Griffin died in Litchfield, Connecticut in 1965.

Maurice Mann, 1929-1990

—Maurice Mann was born in Peabody on February 22, 1929. He graduated from Northeastern University in 1951, majoring in economics. From there, he went on to Boston University for his Master's Degree and then received his Ph.D. from Syracuse University.

He rose quickly in the financial world and by the late 1960s was vice chairman of Merrill Lynch Capital Markets. It was this prominence, no doubt, that drew the eye of the new president, Richard M. Nixon. Maurice Mann was asked to become the assistant director of the Bureau of the Budget. In 1972, he resigned this office to accept the position of CEO of the Federal Home Loan Bank in San Francisco.

Early in his career, he married Betty Melnick. They had two daughters, Deborah and Pamela.

After his work at the Federal Home Loan Bank, Mr. Mann then became the chairman and chief officer of the Pacific Stock Exchange.

Maurice Mann died in November 1990, while returning home from a trip to Florida.

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